



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner
Mark Meyer, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

For Immediate Release – July 20, 2006
Contact: Linda Barth or Amanda Riddell
(608) 266-9600

PSC Approves Transmission Project in Jefferson County

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) approved American Transmission Company's (ATC) request to construct a new 138-kilovolt transmission line in Jefferson County to meet increasing electric demands of commercial, industrial and residential customers.

After reviewing an extensive record, which included public testimony, both Commissioners also traveled the routes to see the possible impacts first hand. "Although short in length, the project raised many issues," Chairperson Ebert explained. "Seeing the route really brought the issues into focus."

One of the key issues of today's decision was the possible impacts of one of the proposed routes to the Faville Grove Sanctuary. Both Commissioners agreed with the Audubon Society's compelling arguments that the sanctuary has a special place in Wisconsin history because of its connection to Aldo Leopold, an environmental pioneer. The sanctuary is approximately 750 acres of habitat restoration, supported by local, state and federal funds. The Commissioners instead chose a route option that will avoid this environmental and recreational resource.

"Today's decisions were a balance between electric reliability requirements and environmental impacts," said Commissioner Meyer. "Our decision is a testament to the benefit and uniqueness of the sanctuary, the ongoing conservation and restoration of the state's natural resources and the vision of Aldo Leopold."

Another issue addressed today is the implementation of the policy provisions of 2003 Wisconsin Act 89 in routing transmission lines along state recreational trails. "State trails provide valuable recreation for Wisconsin and we should recognize their value when making siting decisions," said Chairperson Ebert. "The Commission must act with caution and common sense when routing transmission lines along these trails." In the decision today, the Commission required the new transmission line to run across the street from the recreational trail that runs through a Lake Mills industrial park rather than along-side the trail. In most other instances, the Commission agreed that transmission lines along recreational trails should be underground.

(MORE)

In a verbal decision today, the Commission approved approximately \$22 million for ATC to build approximately 17 miles of new transmission line and to make upgrades to parts of the transmission system in Jefferson County. The new transmission line will connect the Stoney Brook substation in the town of Waterloo to the Jefferson substation outside the city of Jefferson. ATC will also upgrade an existing transmission line from the Stoney Brook substation to the Box Elder substation in the town of Medina and will make improvements to three substations in the project area.

The route that the Commission chose for the new transmission line was broken into three sections:

1. **Northern Route**

The Commission approved a northern segment, commonly referred as the Newville Road route, which shares rights-of-way with County Highway O, Newville Road, Cemetery Road and Interstate 94.

2. **Middle Route**

The Commission approved a common section. This route was uncontested and follows the interstate near Lake Mills.

3. **Southern Route**

The Commission approved a southern segment, commonly referred to as the Lake Mills in-city route, which follows county and town roads, including County Highway V, CP Avenue and County Highway G.

The Commission will issue a written order to finalize today's decision at a later date.

Documents associated with ATC's applications can be viewed on our Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Enter case number 137-CE-121 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on the Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

(END)